

COULD YOU HELP PEOPLE TO HEAR?

Local charity, Cambridgeshire Deaf Association, is looking for committed and enthusiastic volunteers to help with the growing number of people in the county who are struggling with hearing loss.

Over 200,000 people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough currently suffer with the condition and many older people can sometimes struggle with hearing aids, that are too fiddly, or stop working altogether.

This can lead to feelings of isolation and social decline, particularly for older people, and this is where volunteers can play a very important role, according to Rachel Dance, service manager at CDA;

“Being able to repair and maintain your hearing aids is such an important part of retaining your independence. Many people struggle with dexterity and eyesight as they get older and it can make it much more difficult to do this yourself. Thousands of people are affected by hearing loss in the area and we all have had instances where relatives or people we know have a hearing loss and it can be frustrating and isolating, but our aim is to support carers, service users and family members to ensure the hearing aids are maintained and kept working as best as they can be.”

Cambridgeshire Deaf Association organises sessions across the county offering to change tubes, clean hearing aids and replace batteries for people who may not be able to do this themselves. CDA also arranges visits to care homes and nursing homes, ensuring that those who cannot travel to sessions are equally supported.

Rachel says regular maintenance of hearing aids is essential to allow people to be involved in conversations and hear and speak to their loved ones;

“Our volunteers are essential to us as they allow us to reach thousands of people, travel all over the county and provide courier or postal services for those that are home bound too. They are trained to signpost and give advice when needed as well as providing regular re-tubing, battery replacement and basic repairs, to allow people to continue to live their lives to the fullest. Unfortunately, the demand is growing and we need more volunteers to support us, to reach further. There are a number of roles available including repairing and re-tubing hearing aids or receptionist, courier or care home re-tubers”

CDA provide training and support for volunteers to learn the necessary skills in re-tubing and cleaning hearing aids and pay travel expenses for volunteers who are able to be involved in our courier and community services.

If you feel that you can help, please email office@cambsdeaf.org or call 01223 246 237 (and leave a message for Rachael Dance)

FOR MORE DETAILS AND INTERVIEWS PLEASE CONTACT RACHEL DANCE ON 01223 246237 OR EMAIL Rachael.Dance@cambsdeaf.org